

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

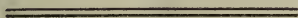
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Urban District Council

of Bodmin

FOR THE YEAR 1948.



BODMIN :

PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.

TO THE BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1948.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—3,311

Estimated mid-year population—5,676.

Number of Inhabited Houses—1,331.

Rateable Value—£29,218.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£115-10-6

The town is a residential one situated some 500 feet above sea level. There are no large industries. The Barracks accommodate a mixed non-civilian and civilian population of 700—800. A large number of residents are employed in the St. Lawrence's Hospital for Mental Diseases.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	34	26	60
Illegitimate	5	1	6
Total	39	27	66

Crude Birth Rate—18·2 per 1000 population.

Birth Rate in England and Wales—17·9 per 1,000 population

Still births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	2	3

Still Birth Rate—43·5 per 1,000 total births.

Still Birth Rate in England and Wales—23·1 per 1,000 births.

Infant Mortality.**Deaths under 1 year.**

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	1	2

Both occurred under the age of one month

Infant Mortality Rate—30 per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate in England and Wales—34 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths.

M.	F.	Total.
24	32	56

Crude death rate—10 per 1,000 of the population.

Death rate in England and Wales—10·8 per 1,000 of the population

Chief Causes of Death.

	M.	F.	Total
Heart diseases	10	15	25
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	—	2	2
Cancer	5	5	10
Pneumonia	3	1	4

No deaths occurred from notifiable diseases except Tuberculosis

Deaths by Ages

	M.	F.	Total.
0 — One year	1	1	2
2 — 20 years	1	0	1
21 — 40 years	0	1	1
41 — 50 years	1	3	4
51 — 60 years	4	3	7
61 — 70 years	6	5	11
71 — 80 years	8	10	18
81 — 90 years	3	7	10
90 years and over	0	2	2
Total—	24	32	56

One maternal death occurred and two deaths were attributable to tuberculosis.

General Provisions of Health Services.

Hospital Facilities. The Borough has two Hospitals within its boundaries. The East Cornwall and the St. Lawrence's Hospital. The former is a General Hospital and the latter a Mental Hospital. Infectious Diseases requiring hospital admission are removed to the Isolation Hospital in Truro.

Laboratory Facilities.

The services of Dr. Hocking in the Laboratory of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary are used for Public Health purposes.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Cornwall County Council is the supervising authority for Midwifery. Until the 5th July, 1948, midwifery was carried out by the District Nurse

Midwives of the County Nursing Association. Since the beginning of the new County Services, these midwives have been employed by the County Council

Infant Welfare.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month under the County's arrangements

Ambulance Services.

Until the 5th July the Borough was served by the Ambulance Services of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. It has, since that date, been absorbed into the County Council's arrangements for sick transport.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

TABLE 1.

Diseases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, 1948.

Disease.	Notified Cases.	Deaths.
Measles	9	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Dysentery	6	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Diphtheria	8	0

The six cases of Dysentery occurred in the Mental Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, one in 20-25 years age group and two in 25-35 age group. All were females.

There were two deaths classified to tuberculosis, one male, non-respiratory and one female, respiratory.

No action was taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925 relating to persons engaged in the Milk trade or under Section 172 Public Health Act 1936, relating to compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action has been taken under this Section relating to persons in need of care and attention.

Water.

Water is supplied by the Bodmin Waterworks Company and with the exception of a temporary shortage at the higher levels of the town, the quantity has been adequate throughout the year. Seven samples of water were taken during the year and the results in six cases were satisfactory. In the remaining instance the report stated that there was evidence of "considerable surface contamination." A typical chemical analysis was as follows:—

Date of Sample 7/12/48.

Analysis (parts per 100,000)

Chlorine present as chlorides	1.5
Nitrogen present as nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as nitrates	0.18
Phosphates	0
Total hardness equivalent to calcium carbonate	3.2
Temporary hardness (annulled by boiling)	0.7

Permanent hardness not altered by boiling	2.5
Saline ammonia	0.0004
Albumonoid ammonia	0.035
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 27 deg. C.	0.03
Oxygen absorbed immediately	
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron in solution	0
Iron in sedimentary form	0
Manganese	0
Total solid constituents	8.0
Free Chlorine	0
Hydrogen Ion concentration equivalent to pH	5.5

Drainage and Sewerage.

Nothing worthy of comment occurred during the year and the effluent from both disposal works were relatively satisfactory.

Scavenging

With the exception of one or two very isolated households, the whole of the Borough is now within the collection area. The method of disposal is by controlled tipping and this has been carried out throughout the year without giving rise to a single complaint.

Factories.

60 inspections were made of the 42 factories registered. Six defects were noted and remedies achieved without statutory action. No complaints were received from the Factories Inspectorate.

Meat and other Foods.

All retail food shops are regularly inspected and the general standard is very good. Slaughtering is carried in one slaughterhouse for the district. The building itself has been improved during the year and is always kept in a very satisfactory state of repair. The following table summarises the inspection and slaughtering for the year:—

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed		262	2	629	5
Number inspected		196	2	476	65
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned.	4	3	1	9	1
Carcasses of which some part was condemned.	81	17	1	16	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease or Injury.	53		100	5	20
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned.	8	4	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part was condemned.	12	3	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	13		—	—	20

Note. The percentage of carcasses affected with disease is very largely due to the considerable number of bovine livers condemned for cirrhosis. It should also be noted that the figures include inspection of animals brought into the slaughterhouse as casualties.

Housing.

The last 16 houses on the Council's Estate at Green Lane were completed and occupied during 1948, and in the same period four houses were built by private enterprise. In addition to these figures, the Mental Hospital Committee completed 24 Cornish Unit Houses for members of their staff at the West Heath Estate.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED,

Medical Officer of Health.

